A

SPEECH

Delivered by

Sir *AUDLEY MERVIN* Knight,

His Majesties

PRIME

SERJEANT AT LAW,

AND

SPEAKER

OF THE

HOUSE of COMMONS;

TO

His Grace

JAMES

Duke of *Ormond*, Lord Lieutenant of *Ireland*,

IN THE

PRESENCE CHAMBER in the Castle of *Dublin*,

The Seventh of *November*, 1665.

DUBLIN,

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[illegible] Most Excellent Majesty:

[illegible] sold at [illegible] in

[illegible]

May it pleaſe your Grace.

THE Houſe of Commons retaining a freſh and grateful memory of the repeated advantages devolved upon them by their Addreſſes to your Grace, have commanded me in all humility to preſent unto you this Inſtrument now in my hand, being entituled, *A Declaration of the Knights, Citizens, and Burgeſſes in the Commons Houſe of Parliament aſſembled.*

The Importance of it voted it, as to be performed with no leſs Solemnity then by the attendance of the whole Houſe, with their Speaker, upon your Grace; ſo, to embalm it for Poſterity, and that by Survivorſhip it might ſpeak when they were ſilent, That it ſhould be Entred in the Journal of their Houſe. This premiſed, with a due reſpect to the Sands in your Graces Hour-glaſs (that are not to be eſtimated in groſs, but by retail) whiſpers unto me this Caution, Not to light my Candle to the Sun, or to ſully the Margin of their Text with any Gloſs of my own; as alſo not to intrench on that time that meaſures the ſafety of a Kingdom: I ſhall therefore keep up my Sails brailed, and only ſpread a Mizen to keep me from falling off from the Senſe of the Houſe upon three Conſiderations that were before them, which divides this Inſtrument into three eſſential parts.

Firſt, The Knights, Citizens, and Burgeſſes, lawfully by the Kings Writ Aſſembled in Parliament, knew themſelves to be the Grand Inqueſt of this Kingdom, who in diſcharge of their Duty had two things in their proſpect; firſt, ſuch occurrences at large as were conuſable by them during their receſs; and ſecondly, the preſent conſtitution of their Houſe: To them intent on the firſt of theſe there was a Preſentment made, That certain Perſons, not capable of a Definition; for they want the ſpecifical difference of a Rational Soul, and if of a Deſcription, it would ſwell the Period in too great a bulk; I will therefore follow the words of a Preſentment, That certain WICKED Perſons, not having the Fear of God

before their eyes, but being ſeduced by a Diabolical inſtigation, had traiterouſly combin'd and confederated to raiſe a new Rebellion againſt his Majeſties Crown and Dignity: Had we conſulted Reaſon only we muſt have ſuppreſs'd our belief of it, and endors'd an *Ignoramus*; but except we will diſmember our ſelves, and not owne our ears at their Tryal, and our eyes at their Execution, we muſt find it *Billa vera*.

Treaſon, Sir, is ſo comprehenſive a Crime, that aggravations cannot heighten it, or excuſes leſſen it; and the Laws of God, of Nature and Nations have ever raiſed the ſtrongeſt boundances to prevent the inundation of it, eſpecially ſuch a Treaſon as would invert the uſe of Arms, and alienate the hearts of Subjects to the ſubverſion of that Government, for the preſervation whereof only they can be lawfully exerciſed and intent: This turns our Cordials into poyſon, and our waters into bloud; Kings being Gods Vicegerents upon Earth, nay in Holy Writ ſtiled Gods, the Laws have allowed that Analogy, that in reference to this Crime we are to be accountable for our thoughts; and ſince S. *Auſtin* tells us, *Inanis eſt illa Legum Cenſura niſi divinæ Legis imaginem gerit*, this judgment of our Law is founded on the Word of God, who lodgeth the Crown and Scepter of our King in that ſecurity, that he will iſſue Summons to the Birds of the Air to give in Evidence thoughts rebellious againſt the Throne: Obſervable is the Roman Law reported by *Tacitus*, *Qui dubitant diſciverunt*; To ſcruple, doubt, or heſitate in performance of our Allegiance, was Treaſon unpardonable, Apoſtaſie inexcuſable.

The Houſe more diſtinctly conſidered this in two inſtances of that Deſign, To ſurprize His Majeſties Caſtle, And to ſeize your Graces Perſon.

Unfortunate, Fortunate Caſtle! Unfortunate to be the level mark in the eye of every Rebellion: Thus the Dam paced on the three and twenty of *October*, 1641. and now the Colt ambles; ſuch, ſuch a Colt, that had not your Grace in breaking of it broke the neck of it, would in a ſmall tract of time become a reſty and ſtubborn Monſter: what was this but a complicated malice in one act to diſarm all His Majeſties good Subjects, to arm Traitors, to take the Childrens bread and give it to Dogs, to make the *Aſylum* of Innocency to be the Seat of Rapine, and the Palace of the King to be a Den of Thieves? But Fortunate art thou yet; for thou haſt taken them that would have taken thee; and thoſe that by ſeizing thy dear Dukes Perſon would have beheaded thee, thou beareſt their heads as Trophies of thy Victory; did I ſay, Sir, they would ſeize your Perſon! I fear I am in ſome miſtake; did they behold your Brow either ſmooth or rough, Love or Fear would have reſtrained them; Tigers would have fled you upon the firſt account; Lions have fled you upon the laſt: May not I take up the expreſſion of *Tully* againſt *Cataline*, *Nihil hic te ora, nihil hic te vultus moverunt?* Could they imagine, that Spirit which courted Dangers, and eſpouſed Miſeries in defence of his Great Maſters Rights, would tamely have ſurrendred up that Royal Fort, and Enſigns of Royalty? Could they dream, that thoſe Officers and Guards under whoſe vigilancy the Golden Fleece had been ſecure, were all dreaming, or if awake, would have preſented them with their matches put out, to have pinion'd your arms, which ſo carefully had ſupported theirs? They

knew

knew you were Gold in the Mine (Honourable by many Streams of ancient and untainted Bloud); they knew alſo this Gold was heightned by the Stamp of Royal Authority: I have read Witchcraft ſo improved, as that they could transfer tortures from the Effigies to the Perſon repreſented: Rebellion is as the ſin of Witchcraft; why then this were to ſtab the King in Effigie: But had they enjoy'd a temporary Succeſs, could they think that no voice would ſound out one Revengeful Obſequy, That this day a great Prince was fallen in *Ireland*, And ſhall *Abner* dye ſo? But, Sir, on recollection, maugre theſe conſiderations, it is too true they would have ſeiz'd your Perſon, and in that all ours: O precipitate deſire of Innovation! that held the dark ſide of the Lanthorn unto our Reaſon, and the light ſide to our Paſſion: I conclude this with the well borrowed Caution of our Houſe, *Fear God and the King, and meddle not with thoſe that are given to change:* Sad and fatal would this change have proved; our wounds were ſcarce ſcarified, the cheeks of the Widows and Fatherleſs ſcarce dry, the bones and ſculls ſilently declaiming againſt Rebellions in every Field, this would have forc'd us to re-act the Tragedy of our miſeries upon a new Scene and Theatre of *bloud.* This laſt word puts me in mind of the Ring-leader of this Plot to bloud, of whom as it was ſaid of *Nabal*, Nabal *is his name, and folly is with him*; ſo of him, *Bloud* was his name, and bloud was in his heart, and the Swadle-band of this deſign was *bloud.* A ſad change! to metamorphoſe Heaven-born *Monarchy* into Hell-born *Anarchy* and confuſion, the reſtored Peace and Glory of the Church into relapſed Schiſms, Hereſies and Blaſphemies; the reverence of our Laws into the mock Pageantry of High Courts of Juſtice; the pleaſure of our Liberties into the anguiſh of ſervitude; and our Manna into the Garlick and Onions of *Egypt: Fear God and the King, and meddle not with thoſe that are given to change.*

Mercy and Juſtice are the Cement of humane Societies; theſe Conſpirators have ſinned againſt both: Sentence was executed againſt ſome whom His Majeſty left to the judicature of his Parliament; Mercy was enjoy'd by all whom he had reſerved to the judgment of his own breaſt; ſo that theſe perſons will not hearken to the rod, *and are deaf to the Charmer charm he never ſo ſweetly.* A deſperate preſumption! whilſt this Kingdom were dividing Lands forfeited for Rebellion, to perſwade the people that the readieſt way to ſecure them was to engage in a new one: I have obſerved, Dead vermine hang'd up in warrens will baniſh Creatures of the ſame ſpecies from the place: what thought theſe men became of the faculties of a Rational Soul in man? This was the height of imbitter'd Nature, to blow a Trumpet of Sedition while the hand was yet writing on the wall *Mene Mene Tekel, &c.* Thus again they hearken not unto the rod: And let me aſk, was not *Ireland* now feeding upon *Benjamins* Meſs of Royal care and favour; nay ſome of thoſe perſons dipping their Sop in that Meſs, and yet reſolved to betray him? was not this Kingdoms womb pregnant with the firſt-born of our Hopes, the *Act of Setlement*, deriv'd from no leſs a Parentage then the breath of the Royal Aſſent, and would theſe men baptize it *Ichabod*, and cauſe our Glory and Happineſs to end in ſhame and miſery? Though the Setlement of *Ireland* be

later, the care of it aroſe equally early in His Majeſties thoughts with the intereſts of his other Kingdoms, witneſs the twin-bearing date of this Parliament with the Parliament of *England*, and His Gracious Continuance of it: the delays evidence the Intricacy, and engage us to the larger return of our Affections, Duties and Obedience, for the Expence of His Majeſties patience: And unneceſſarily diſcontented Spirits might and ought to have copied ſo fair and ſo authentique an Original: Thus might they have concluded againſt their Phanatique diſtempers from the Topicks of Reaſon; or were they void of that, yet they might have ſtrangled their ill-begotten Reſolves from the Topicks of Sence: were they not Eye-witneſſes of the cleer and *diaphanous* diſpenſation of Juſtice through the texture of that Government committed by His Sacred Majeſty to your *Grace*; were they not Ear-witneſſes of that Diſcourſe delivered by your *Grace*, and Printed in the richeſt Volume, the Affections of a people, in which every Period was perfum'd with Grace, and the Branches of it laden with Apples of Gold in Pictures of Silver? Could the moſt diſſolute Roman Spirit be reſtrained by ſaying *Cato looks on?* It is below my Commiſſion, and truly my Nature, to flatter; but truth bluſheth not to aver, A greater then *Cato* is here; for what he ſpoke ſpeculatively at the beſt, your *Grace* maintain'd it practically in the worſt of times, *viz.*

Victrix cauſa Deis placuit, ſed victa Catoni.

Was it eaſie for to transform ſo great and underſtanding a people to become *Idols*, That in ſeeing they ſhould not ſee, and in hearing they ſhould not hear? would they have us reſign'd our ſenſe, that the Government rained Snares, when we felt the influence of it as the dew upon the tender graſs; that the Sky was overcaſt, gloomy, and ominous, when the Solar rays of Majeſty, reflected through your Government, begot a new, verdant, and laſting Spring? I appeal to the greateſt Prophet amongſt us, durſt he foretell that ſome future luſtres of years could have reſtor'd this Kingdom to that beauty and progreſſive eſtate of perfection as now it enjoys, when they ſurveigh'd it in that Chaos your *Grace* entred upon it? I paſs by your patient and willing divorce (after a long Exile) from this your Native Country to attend the publique Setlement of this Kingdom; whilſt you laid aſide the one, where did we then lodge our fears? In your *Graces* breaſt: where were our Remedies prepar'd for His Majeſties approbation? Much, much in your *Graces* wiſdom: And when the execution of the *Act of Setlement* could not well proceed further without manifeſt inconveniency, you eſpouſed the further care of it, and left all to follow that: you made (I may ſay) a League offenſive and defenſive with it; if it ſhifted its ſtation, you ſhifted yours; if it travell'd in the peſtilence, you forſook it not; if it were in ſtorms, you bore up with it; and I hope we ſhall have cauſe to ſay you are return'd with your arms laden full of Sheaves: I will ſhut up this with one queſtion: Did your *Graces* own Eſtate pray in aid of any Act? yes truly; but it was only the Acts of your own Loyalty and Suffer-

Sufferings: why then I correct my ſelf, it did not; for they were well known to your Great Maſter, who writes Injuries only upon the Sand, but far leſſer Merits than yours in Marble. I confeſs Sir I can find your Soul and Spirit throughout the Act, your Name in a place or two, but there rather to Give than to Receive: But had you made your little finger greater than the loyns of your Predeceſſors (though this Kingdom never found you in the ruſhing Wind, but in the gentle Gales) muſt the Outcry be, *To your Tents O Iſrael*? and muſt we ſeek Reformation from Powder and Bullet, which as a great Cardinal term'd it is

——— ——*Ratio ultima Regum?*

Or if we will pretend only to Petition His Majeſty, I ſay what means the Neighing of the Armed Horſes! *Non bene conveniunt*, Petitions and Armed Troops; and certainly the Devil was Maſter of the Ceremonies when Petitioners were brought with drawn Swords to approach the Throne.

Theſe Conſiderations, with many more, gave the firſt part of this Declaration its riſe, That as being the Repreſentative of all the Commons in this Kingdom, to declare their abhorrence and deteſtation as of all Conſpiracies, Plots, Deſigns, Confederacies, and Inſurrections whatſoever, againſt His Sacred Majeſty, and His undoubted Rights of Government, though palliated with never ſo ſpecious Pretences, or guilded with glorious Titles; ſo to declare them to be Treaſon and Rebellion in the higheſt degree: And we are aſſured, Sir, that all His Majeſties faithful and loyal Commons of this Kingdom will, as we are bound to perform the Truſt repoſed by them in us, perform the Promiſes made by us in this our Declaration in their behalf; we are in a ſort their Godfathers, and we do ſolemnly vow to fight under the Banner of *CHARLES* the Second, His Heirs and Succeſſors, againſt the World and all the World, againſt the Fleſh and all manner of Fleſh, againſt the Devil and all his Inſtruments: Sir, I cannot omit this laſt Champion, it being an unqueſtionable truth, That never was there a Rebellion in which the Devil did not lead the Van, ordered the Battel, and drew up the Rear.

Thus far the Houſe proceeded upon the Inſpection of this Skeleton at large (we praiſe God that by your Graces Prudence and Vigilancy we can call it a Skeleton); but upon a more particular Anatomy of it, what ſhall I ſay, Sir! Grief and Horrour ſeizeth upon my Tongue; and yet,

Infandum domus ipſa jubet renovare dolorem.

Were it not too late I would humbly requeſt you the Knights, Citizens, and Burgeſſes, to order ſome *Boanerges* to ſpeak this part; or may I not yet obtain the Indulgence allow'd to *Archytas*, commanded to repeat an unpleaſing Paſſage, wrote it upon the Wall. But methinks I heare the voice, To the Orders of the Houſe: From your Grace therefore I humbly beg, (for to your Grace only I am commanded to apply my ſelf) that I may expreſs

preſs it in *Hieroglyphicks*: Sir, the Oſtrich laid her Eggs in the Eagles Neſt; The Frogs crept into one of the Kings Palaces: *Cæſar* is wounded in the Senate: The Colledg of Diſciples, and *Judas* one of them. If ſo, that no Societies are priviledged from ſome Corruptions, Parliaments muſt not be ſtiled Triumphant whilſt the Church is Militant: And if in two, the leaſt of Numbers, and thoſe cemented by Holy Rites of Matrimony, the Bride may be unchaſt, (her ſhame, though the Bridegrooms misfortune) then Sir ſome Perſons who were called by the Kings Writ, capacitated with a Truſt from a well-believing People, to be Members of our Houſe, have been found to be ingaged in that Plot, ſo odious and deſtructive to all good men. Sir, this juſtly allarm'd us to find *Death in the Pot*, That the Fountains of Waters were become brackiſh, That part of the Magazine was on Fire, and that the Leproſie was amongſt the Phyſitians. Sir, we had before us at that time many Bills, and matters of weighty importance, even that comprehenſive Bill that is to bring a Sabbath to this Kingdom; but the Houſe laid all aſide, as judging no Law could proſper that was blaſted by their Breath; unfit Perſons were they to adviſe His Majeſty, who after deep Wounds, ſcarce ſcarrified by application of Royal Mercy, had conſpired againſt him: Is Death therefore in the Pot? the Houſe voted to take out the wild Gourds; the Kings Writ was to gather Lentils: Is there Brackiſhneſs in the Waters? Caſt in Salt; be pleaſed to obſerve, Sugar will not do it: Is the Magazine a fire? Separate that part: Is a Phyſitian Leprous? (*Dio mi guarda del Medico rangoſo*) Put him out of the Congregation.

Treaſon among Crimes is as the Plague among Diſeaſes; but an Infant Infected warrantably immures the Family, though Noble and Numerous: Would our Gracious Soveraign lent a quick Ear, we doubt not but ſome Spirits would have unhappily improv'd this Crime of ſome, ſo to the diſadvantage of us all, as that we might have found our Door ſhut up with a *Red Croſs* and a *Miſerere* upon it: But to all ſuch His Majeſties Anſwer would be return'd with a frowning Brow,

Parcito paucorum crimen diffundere in omnes.

And therefore after many, yet neceſſary Prorogations, His Majeſty hath Aſſembled us again; nay, and not only ſo, but encreaſed our Number by Additional Boroughs Created, and Impowered by Letters Patents to return Burgeſſes, ſome of whoſe eminent Abilities we enjoy at this day; and none encreaſeth the Number of His Enemies: And truly, Sir, did not Juſtice to our ſelves require, againſt whoſe Reputation and Honour they have ſo highly offended, our Duty and Allegiance to His Sacred Majeſty demands us that we ſhould not only purge our Houſe, but ſince His Majeſties Courts of Juſtice have already attach'd the Conuſance of their Crimes, that we ſhould rend them from our ſelves, and leave them to the Juſtice of the Laws.

In order hereunto we have already aired our Houſe with ſome preparatory Votes, and have appointed a ſhort day for ſharper Phyſick.

It

It is not my intent to draw this Beaſt at length, my pencil was only deſign'd for water-colours work; truly, Sir, it is ſo, I rather deſire we may wear it on our breaſts, to remember it with indignation, then for Ornament to a Room; I have only ſhown the track of the foot, that we may know *ex ungue Leonem*, and by *Hercules* his foot to make the Calculation of his other dimenſions: I have only pointed at a little cloud, but ſuch a one as would have overcaſt the Horizon of three Kingdoms. But God be prais'd the Cloud is overblown, and the Dragon kill'd.

The next queſtion is, who kill'd the Dragon? Let Hiſtory give a place to S. *GEORGE* in the Almanack; but let truth give your *Grace* a place in our hearts, who cruſh'd the Cockatrices egges: with humble hearts, hands and eyes lifted up to Heaven, we know our Anchor was within the vail, *and to the watchmen of Iſrael we give the praiſe.* Next we acknowledge and admire the wiſdom and goodneſs of our gracious Sovereign, that ſeparated you to ſteer this Kingdom that was beating of it out at Sea, whilſt his other two Kingdoms rode embayed: So, Sir, though you are not the Author, yet you are the Inſtrument deſign'd by God and our King; and then what ſhall it be done to the man whom God and the King intend to honour? You were preſerved in the Ark of Bulruſhes to be a Deliverer; I remember the time when you found the Bulruſhes, and God made you an Ark of them; even then, when to promote your Maſters Intereſts you came into *London* in the diſguiſe of Bulruſhes, (you then ſaw *Cromwell*, and he ſaw not you, though he beheld you, which proves him an Idol, that in ſeeing he did not ſee) and God of thoſe Bulruſhes made you an Ark; for he preſerved you in ſafety: what a Hecatomb of Loyalty would have been of your perſon, if in that Ark you had not floated above the waters? you put your hand to the Nail, and your right hand to the workmans hammer, with the hammer you ſmote the Plot, you ſmote off its head when you had pierced and ſtriken through the temples of it; at your feet it bowed, it fell, it lay down; at your feet it bowed, it fell, where it bowed, there it fell down dead.

But, Sir, did not repreſented Majeſty ſo well ſeated on your brow ſilence me, I ſhould acquaint your *Grace*, that I obſerved the Houſe of Commons much divided in their Paſſions in the management of their deliverance; their deliverance was their joy, but the hazard you expos'd your Perſon to make it full and compleat, was their grief; you would not be contented that your knowledge of it, and the prevention thereof ſhould bear one date, but you watched perſonally night and day to encounter thoſe conſpirators in the very act: Sir, was this well done, to throw your Perſon into a throng of bloudy hands and deſperate hearts? was this an even ſtake, Nightingales againſt Hedge-ſparrows, and a Flagſhip to bear in to a Squadron of Fire-ſhips? Had they lopt your little finger off, though their bodies had lain gaſping in heaps, the victory had been theirs, and our eyes would have wept out the bonfires our hands had made: Therefore I am commanded to preſent to you the humble Petition and Advice of the Houſe of Commons, That your *Grace* would meaſure your ſelf, not by the Reſolves of your Courage, but by the Intereſt of a People whom you love, and of whom you are dearly beloved.

Upon the reſult of all this, I come to diſcharge the ſtrict command of the Houſe, to let your *Grace* know, that our hearts are towards the Governour of *Ireland*, who offer'd himſelf willingly for the people. A ſingle tongue (though abler then I dare pretend unto) were too narrow a Channel for ſuch ſtreams of Gratitude to glide through: It may be prudence in me to imitate the Painter, who being required to draw *Niobes* face, and finding his ſhadows very feeble to repreſent the Paſſions of her Soul, drew *Niobes* head in a bag.

But, Sir, be pleaſed to accept from me, who in their Names humbly tender to your *Grace* their ſerious reſentment and acknowledgement of that happineſs this Kingdom enjoys by the prudent management of that great Truſt our Dread Sovereign hath inveſted you with, and in particular for that Sabbath we enjoy by ſo great and ſeaſonable deliverance from the conſequence of this Plot, ſo odious to all good men; accept, pray Sir, the tribute of their thanks, as an Earneſt and Aſſurance, that with their Lives and Fortunes they will aſſiſt your *Grace* in vindication of His Majeſties Supreme Authority and Right, let the oppoſition be hatcht in darkneſs, maſk'd with never ſo ſpecious pretences, or appear (if our ſins ſhould make way unto it) never ſo formidable with Armed Power.

FINIS.

A DECLARATION OF THE KNIGHTS, CITIZENS, and BURGESSES IN THE Commons Houſe OF PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

WHEREAS certain wicked Perſons, of Fanatick and diſloyal Principles, diſaffected to His Majeſties juſt and gracious Government, and to the Peace and Settlement of this His Kingdom of *Ireland*, did in the year of our Lord God, One thouſand ſix hundred ſixty three, moſt Traiterouſly and diſloyally conſpire to raiſe Rebellion in this Realm, and particularly had deſign'd on the 21 day of *May* in the ſaid year 1663. to Surpriſe and Take His Majeſties Caſtle of *Dublin*, His principal Fort in this His Kingdom, and to ſeize on the Perſon of His Grace the Lord Lieutenant, in order to their carrying on their miſchievous contrivances, for renewing bloody confuſions throughout this Kingdom, from which Evils this

Realm, and all His Majeſties Subjects therein, had been then but newly redeemed, and that by the Bleſsing of God upon His Majeſties Happy Reſtauration to His Rightful Crowns and Kingdoms. And whereas we look upon thoſe odious Conſpiracies as the miſchievous Contrivances of ſome Fanatick and Diſloyal Perſons, of deſperate Fortunes, as well as of deſperate and deſtructive Principles, who endeavoured to amend their own Conditions by the Ruine of others, or to ſet up ſomthing (if they knew what) ſuitable to the frenzy of their own humours and Imagnations, though at the charge and hazard of others, and at the price of other mens Bloods, whom they laboured to ſeduce: And whereas that their horrid Conſpiracy being (by the Bleſsing of God upon the watchful Endeavours of His Grace the Lord Lieutenant) diſcovered and diſappointed, divers of the Conſpirators were apprehended, and committed to Priſon, and ſome of them upon fair and equal Tryals, according to the Laws of the Land, were (in His Majeſties Court of Chief Place) found Guilty, and by Judgment of Law Condemned, and thereupon were moſt deſervedly Executed: And whereas one of thoſe Perſons ſo juſtly Executed, and ſome others alſo, who were involved in the guilt of that hideous Conſpiracy, were Members of the Commons Houſe of Parliament, which we mention with inward ſorrow, and grief of heart, and with horrour and deteſtation, to find that any Perſons who had the Honour (under the protection of His Majeſties bleſſed Government) to be Members of this Houſe, and conſequently entruſted in thoſe weighty Affairs, which (for the ſafety and peace of the King and Kingdom) are often deliberated and conſulted in this Houſe, ſhould be ſo ungrateful,

grateful, nay trayterous and diſloyal, as to conſpire even againſt that Government (which in the Duty of Subjects to His Majeſty, and the obligation of that Duty heightned by their being Members of this Houſe) they were bound by the Laws of God and Nature to contribute their beſt Endeavours to preſerve and maintain: Yet this Parliament, by occaſion of the ſeveral neceſſary Prorogations from time to time, for important cauſes and conſiderations, until the 26 day of *October*, 1665. had not the opportunity of Aſſembling, and conſequently could not declare (as we earneſtly deſired to do, and as we would have done much earlier if we had been Aſſembled) our unanimous deteſtation and abhorrence of that Traiterous Conſpiracy. And therefore upon our firſt Meeting in this Houſe in this Seſſion, although many weighty Affairs lay before us, yet ſo ſenſible was this Houſe of that horrid Conſpiracy, and that aggravated in that Circumſtance, that ſome of the Conſpirators were Members of this Houſe, as we laid all other Affairs aſide for the preſent, and in the firſt place entred into conſideration of that particular: And thereupon this Houſe did and do hereby unanimouſly declare their juſt deteſtation and abhorrence of that vile and odious Conſpiracy; and do alſo declare the deep ſenſe which this Houſe hath of His Grace the Lord Lieutenants great Prudence, Diligence, and Circumſpection, as in his timely diſcovering that hideous Conſpiracie, ſo in his ſeaſonable prevention of the ſad, bloody, and dreadful Effects which (if not ſo prevented) might have followed thereupon throughout this Kingdom; for which his continual watchful Endeavours for the Safety and Peace of the KING and Kingdom, we do return to his Grace the moſt humble

and hearty Thanks of this Houſe, and do aſſure him of the conſtant Loyalty of this Houſe to His Majeſty, and their humble Obedience to His Grace, whom His Majeſty hath in His high Wiſdom appointed for the Government of this His Kingdom, and People therein, under the prudent Conduct of His Majeſty. And that this Houſe may not fail in any point of Duty to His Majeſty, we are fully reſolved to make ſtrict Inquiry what Members of this Houſe have been ſo wicked as to have had any hand in thoſe horrid Guilts, ſo hateful to God and Man; and for ſuch as ſhall be found, we ſhall take ſuch courſe for the juſt proſecution of them, as may manifeſt the Actions of this Houſe to be equal and agreeable to the Declaration we have herein made, as of our juſt deteſtation and abhorrence of ſuch foul Crimes, ſo of our bounden Duty and unfeigned Loyalty to His Sacred Majeſty. And to the end this our Declaration may be delivered over to Poſterity, and to teſtifie to the World the true ſenſe we have of the Duty and Loyalty which by the Laws of God, and by our Natural Allegiance to His Majeſtie, we owe to Him, and which by the bleſsing of God we ſhall be alwaies ready to pay to Him, with that faithfulneſs which becoms the Loyalty and Obedience of good Subjects to ſo Great and Gracious a Majeſtie, it is Ordered, That this Declaration be entred in the Journal Books of the Proceedings of this Houſe.

Dated the Second of November, 1665.

FINIS.

ORdered, *Nemine contradicente*, That the Speech delivered by Mr. Speaker yeſterday to His Grace *James* Duke of *Ormond*, Lord Lieutenant of this Kingdom, be forthwith Printed and Publiſhed, and that Mr. Speaker receive the Thanks of this Houſe for ſo clearly delivering their ſenſe therein, *Novemb.* 8. 1665.

Phil. Ferneſley,
Cler. Parliam.

ORdered, *Nemine contradicente*, That the Declaration of this Houſe, entituled, *A Declaration of the Knights, Citizens, and Burgeſſes in the Commons Houſe of Parliament aſſembled*, be forthwith Printed and Publiſhed.

Phil. Ferneſley,
Cler. Parliam.